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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 # 6 QUITO 3649

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FROM CARTER PARTY E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN), PFOR SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: QUITO 1. SUMMARY. IN THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH MRS. CARTER AND PARTY, ECUADOREAN SIDE, LED BY SUPREME COUNCIL PRESI-DENT POVEDA, MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION FOR IMPROVED SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. FORMULATION, EXPRESSED WITH VARIOUS NUANCES BY SEVERAL SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS ON ECUADOREA SIDE, WAS THAT PERU'S RECENT LARGE-SCALE ACQUISITION OF ARMS HAD CREATED A SERIOUS POWER IMBALANCE IN THE REGION AND THE RESULTING DESTABILIZATION WAS A THREAT TO PEACE, ECUADOR, THEY ARGUED, IS RELATIVE -LY DEFENSELESS IN THE FACE OF THIS THREAT AND NEEDED THE URGENT COOPERATION OF THE U.S. IN ACQUIRING AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY, FLEET MODERNIZATION, AND ANT !- TANK EQUIPMENT. ECUADOREANS ARGUED THAT THEY AGREED WITH USG NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, AND BELIEVED THAT THEIR SITUATION EX-ACTLY FIT ONE OF ITS QUALIFICATIONS, E.G., WHERE COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. MUST DEPEND ON ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO OFFSET QUANTITATIVE AND OTHER DISADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A REGIONAL BALANCE, IN THIS CONTEXT, THEY QUESTIONED THE KFIR DECISION AS PART OF THE GENERAL PRE-SE NT AT ION.

2. AFTER EXPLAINING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S OVERALL APPROACH TO FOREIGN RELATIONS AND MORE PARTICULARLY TO LATIN AMERICA, MRS. CARTER EXPLAINED THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND STRESSED THAT THE KFIR DECISION HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST ECUADOR, BUT WAS PART OF AN EMERGIN GLOBAL POLICY. MRS. CARTER SAID THAT IF PERU'S ACQUISITION OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND OTHER ARMS WAS INDEED CREATING AN IMBALANCE. SHE WOULD

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BRING IT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. ASST. SECY.
TODMAN EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN COOPERATING
WITH ANDEAN COUNTRIES IN SEARCH FOR PEACE. AMB. BLOOMFIELD NOTED SEVERAL RECENT CASES WHERE U.S. HAS RESPONDED
WELL TO ECUADOREAN REQUESTS AND STRESSED THAT IT WOULD
CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT COULD WITHIN THE NEW POLICY GUIDELINES.

3. ECUADOREAN SIDE EXPLAINED ITS PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING POWER TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED PRIDE IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. MRS: CARTER EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR ECUADOREAN EFFOR IS IN BOTH AREAS, AND ASKED ECUADOR TO BE-COME MORE ACTIVE WITHIN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE JUST AS IT WAS IN ITS RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. THE ECUADOREANS PLEDGED THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE. AFTERWARDS AND IN CONVERSATION WITH ADM POVEDA MRS. CARTER AND OTHERS IN HER PARTY (IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WE WERE TOLD THAT ECUADOR WOULD INDEED RATIFY THE AMERICAN CON-VENTION, BUT THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THE TIMING -- FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR SECURITY SITUATION -- WAS NOT YET RIGHT.) AT ONE POINT, THEY SUGGESTED THAT THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY COULD BE AFFECTEDBY WHETHER THEY RECEIVE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

AS A RESULT OF THE WAY THE ECUADOREANS ORGANIZED THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING, THE ARMS ISSUE DOMINATED THE DISCUSSION, WITH HUMAN RIGHTS RAISED BY MRS. CARTER, AND THE OPEC-EXCLUSIONARY AMENDMENT NOT RAISED AT ALL. (HOWEVER, ASST. SECY, TODMAN, IN A CONVERSATION LATER IN THE DAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, CONVEYED THE PRESIDENT'S SENTIMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER OPPOSED THE AMENDMENT BUT DID NOT WANT TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND NOW BECAUSE OF TIMING AND BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO SEEM TO PROMISE UNLESS HE COULD BE MORE CERTAIN HE COULD DELIVER.) END SUMMARY.

4. MRS. CARTER CALLED UPON THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON JUNE 2. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTIONS, AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS WITH THE SUPREME COUNCIL SECRET

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AND OTHER ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS EMBARKED UPON A THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES. 5. THE ECUADOREAN PARTICIPANTS WERE: ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA BURBAND, PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COUNCIL; GENERAL GUILLERMO DURAN ARCENTALES, SUPREME COUNCIL; GENERAL LEORO, SUPREME COUNCIL; FOREIGN MINISTER JOREGE SALVADOR LARA; DEFENSE MINISTER ANDRES ARRATA; MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT CL. BOLIVAR JARRIN; CHIEF OF STAFF OF JOINT COMMAND, GEN. CARLOS AGUIRRE ASANZA; PLUS ECONOMIC SECTOR MINISTERS AND KEY AGENCY CHIEFS WHO DID NOT ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS. THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS WERE: MRS. CARTER; ASST. SECY. TERENCE TODMAN; AMBASSADOR RICHARD BLUOMFIELD; MS. MARY HOYT; MR. ROBERT PASTOR; MS. CAROL BENEFIELD (STENOGRAPHER); MS. STEPHANIE VON REIGERSBERG (INTERPRETER).

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ING IT ENTIRELY DISPROPORTIONATE BOTH TO PERU'S ECONOMY AND TO THE MILITARY POTENTIAL OF ITS NEIGHBORS. FUR-THER COMPLICATING THE SITUATION IN PERU, HE CONTINUED, WAS THAT MOST OF THE ARMS HAD COME FROM THE SOVIET UNION. POVEDA REVEALED THAT ECUADOR HAD ALSO RECEIVED A FEELER FROM THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING ARMS AND EQUIP-MENT, BUT DUE TO ECUADOREAN POLICY, ITS NATIONAL CHARACTER, AND WAY OF LIFE, ECUADOR WAS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESENCE WHICH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY AN ARMS SUPPLIER-PURCHASER RELATIONSHIP. 8. POVEDA CEDED TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFARIS, JORGE SALVADOR LARA, WHO DELINEATED ECUADOREAN PRINCIPLES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. SALVADOR SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS MO TIVATED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, DEFENSE OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTER-VENTION. THE REPUDIATION OF THE LEGITIMACY OF TERRITORY TAKEN BY FORCE, THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ECUADOR. HE SAID, IS A FREIND OF THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF ITS HISTORIC TIES, ITS DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, CERTAIN GEOPOLITICAL IMPERATIVES, AND THE NEED FOR EXPANSION OF TRADE, ECHOING POVEDA'S REMARKS ON THE ANDEAN SITUATION, SALVADOR SAID THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS ASECTS OF THE SITUATION EACH OF WHICH SEPARATELY WOULD BE DISTURBING. BUT TAKEN TOGETHER REPRESENTED A TRULY EXPOSIVE POTEN-TIAL. ONE OF THE FACTORS WAS THE LANDLOCKED STATUS OF BOLIVIA AND ITS RELATION WITH PERU AND CHILE. A SECOND WAS THE ARMS ACQUISITIONS OF PERU WHICH HAD CREATED A QUALITATIVE AND QUANTATIVE POWER IMBALANCE INTHE REGION AT THE EXPENSE OF DOMESTIC RECES-SION AND IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE PERUVIAN MASSES. A THIRD WAS THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN PERU. NOTHWITHSTANDING THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERU; THESE FACTORS, HE SAID, COULD SPELL REGIONAL TRAGEDY. SALVA-DOR ALSO REFERRED TO PERU'S INVAION OF ECUAOREAN-CLAIMED TERRITORY IN 194 AND ITS DEPRIVATION OF AN AMA-ZONIAN OUTLET. ECUADORONLY WISHED AN HONORABLE CONCILIA-TION WITH PERU WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AN OUTLET TO THE AMAZON. REPEATING HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR HOSTILITIES IN THE REGION, HE STATED THAT ECUADOR IS SECRET

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HAPPY THAT THE US. SHARD ITS CONCERN. HE HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD MAINTAIN ITS POSITION OF BEING WILLING TO COOPERTE TO BRING ABOUT A RELAXATION OF. TENSIOONS IN THE AREA. 9. MRS. CARTER RESPONDED WITH A GENERAL VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REFLECTED A NEW AND MORE OPEN VIEW TO WRLD AND DOMESTIC AFFARIS AS WELL AS A CONVICTION THAT WE CANNOT ACT ABROAD IN A WAY THAT WE WOULD NOT ACT AT HOME. THE PRESIDENT SEES A NEED FOR A WIDER SYSTEM OF WORLD COOPERATION AND BELIEVES THATWE AE IN A NEW HISTORIC ER. PROBLEMS MUST BE FACED ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS. WE MUST REACH OUT TO AREAS BEYOND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHR. IN THIS CONTEXT, LATIN AMERICA IS VERY IMPORT-ANT AND WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HER VISIT. DE-SCRIBING HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE SECOND MAJOR TENET OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY, SHE NOTED THAT THE COMMITMENT WAS NOT JUST A VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT, BUT OF THE ENTIRE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE BELIEF, SHE SAID, THAT THIS CONCERN IS SHARED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS HEMISPHERE AND THAT THIS COMMON BELIEF CAN BE THE BASIS FOR A WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM OF COOPERATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ANOTHER TENET OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS. SHE RECALLED THAT THE LAST THING SHE DID BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON WAS TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY OF THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL 1 OF THE TREATY OF TLATEL OL CO . ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE PRESIDENT DID AFTER HIS INAUGURTION WAS TO ASK FOR A STUDY OF CONVENTION MS SALES POLICY. WHILE THAT STUDY WAS UNDER WAY, A DIFFICULT DECISION HAD TO BE MADE REGARDING THE SALE OF KFIR FIGHTERS TO ECUADOR. SHE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE IN A WAY THAT WAS THOUGHT CONSISTENT WITH OUR EMERGING ARMS POLICY.

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THE AREA. FOR OUR PART, HE CONCLUDED, WE WILL CON-TINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH LEADERS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. 11. COMMENTING ON THE STATEMENTS BY MRS. CARTER AND ASST. SECY. TODMAN, PRESIDENT POVEDA DECLARED THAT ECUADOREAN FOREIGN POLICY COINCIDED 100 PERCENT WITH THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN CERTAIN AREAS. IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE ARMS QUESTION, HE SAID, ECUADOR WAS IN NEAR PERFECT AGREEMENT WITH THE US. NO COUNTRY WITH A DEMOCRATIC AMBIENCE, HE EXPLAINED, COULD REALLY OPPOSE US. EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE WORLD. HE APPRECIATED THE ADMINISTRTION'S POLICY OF CONSUL-TATION AND COOPERATION WHICH MET A SORELY FELT NEED AMONG COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT PREVIOUSLY HAVE THE FULL AT TENT ION OF THE UNITED STATES. HE CHARACTER IZED MRS. CARTER'S VISIT AS AN AMPLE DEMONSTRTIO OF THIS POLICY. WITH REGARD TO ARMS SALES, POVEDA DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ECUADOR'S POSITIO RAN COUNTER TO THE PRESIDENT'S PO-LICY. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENT INDICATED THAT THE US. WOULD SUPPORT FRIENDLY COUNT-RIES WHICH HAD TO DEPEND UPON ADVANCED WEAPONRY EITHER TO COMPENSATE FOR OVERALL DISADVANTAGES OR TO RESTORE A REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE. HE DECLARED THAT THOUGH ECUADOR WAS IN FAVOR OF US. ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, IT ALSO HOPED THAT DUE CONSIDERATION WOULD BE TAKEN FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS IN EACH CASE. HE ARGUED THAT ECUADOR'S DEFENSE POSITION WAS SO WEAK AND ITS NEEDS SO SMALL THAT THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY PRODUCE ALARM OR THREATEN THE PEACE. MEETING ECUADOR'S VERY SMALL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE THE WARLIKE INTENTIONS ON THE PART OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. HE FORMULATED ECUADOREAN POLICY ON THIS QUESTION AS SEEKING ASSISTANCE AND RE-ESTABLISING A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION AND THEN FREEZING ARMS ACQUISITIONS IN THE NAME OF PROMOTING PEACE. 12. MRS, CARTER RESPUNDED THAT THE US. ALSO WAS CON-CERNED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT PERU HAS PURCHASED, AND BY THE FACT THAT DOST OF IT HAS COME FROM THE SOVIET UNION. SHE REITERATED THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL

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DESTABILIZING EFFECT OF SUCH PURCHASES ON THE REGION. IF IT IS TRUE, SHE SAID, THAT THE PERUVIANS HAVE IN FACT BOUGHT SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT FROM THE SOVIT UNION THEREBY CREATING AN IMBALANCE, SHE WOULD BRING IT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. DECLINING TO MAKE ANY PROMISES THA! SHE COULD NOT KEEP REGARDING THE SALE OF ARMS, SHE ASSURED THE ECUADOREAN SIDE THAT SHE WOULD CONVEY THEIR MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE WONDERED WHY WE COULD NOT USE OUR IMA-GINATION TO FIND ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PROVIDE ECUADOR WITH THE SECURITY IT CLEARLY NEEDS RATHER THAN DIVERT SCARCE RESOURCES WHICH COULD BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT INSTEAD OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. FOR EXAMPLE, SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE PEACE-KEEPING FUNCTIONS OF THE DAS BUGHT TO BE STRENGTHENED. SHE ASKED THE ECUA-DOREAN SIDE WHETHER THEY HAD ANY IDEAS ON THIS. 13. PRESIDENT POVEDA REQUESTED US. COOPERATION IN CONVERTING THESE ALTERNATIVES INTO REAL POSSIBILITIES. REGARDING THE DAS, HE SAID HE SHARED MRS. CARTER'S INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING ITS PEACE-KEEPING FUNCTION AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT.

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TO INTRODUCE SUCH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY IN THE AREA. HE REALIZED THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT AND PAIN-FUL FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO DECIDE TO VETO THE KFIR SALE T ECUADOR, BUT THAT THIS DECISION WAS ALSO PAINFUL TO ECUADOR INASMUCH AS IT HAD PLACED ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IN JEOPARDY. SALVADOR WAS GRATIFIED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD HERD ECUADOR'S VIEWS AND WOULD CONVEY THEM TO THE PRESIDENT. HE HOPED THAT MRS. CARTER'S DIRECT EXPOSURE TO THIS QUESTION WOULD DO MUCH TO CLEAR THE AIR. 16. MRS. CARTER REPLIED THAT KFIR DECISION HAD COME IN THE MIDDLE OF A REVIEW ON ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE ADMINISTRATION. SHE STRESSED THAT THE DECISION WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ECUADOR BUT IT WAS PART OF A GLOBAL POLICY, AND AT THE SAME TIME, SHE SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD ECUADOR'S SECURITY CONCERNS AND THAT THE U.S. ALSO WAS INTERESTED IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THIS REGION. 17. CONTINUING ON THE THEME OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE. POVEDA POINTED OUT THAT IF ECUADOR DID NOT TAKE APPRO-PRIATE AND TIMELY MEASURES TO INCREASE ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITY, THE PEACE OF THE REGION WOULD BE COM-PROMISED. ALLUDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, POVEDA SAID THAT ECUADOR FELT THAT IT WAS A COUNTRY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT ECUADOR WAS A COUNTRY ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY, A FREE COUNTRY WHERE EXTREMISM WAS MINIMAL. AS SUCH, IT SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT IT HAD A CLAIM ON THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. WITH REGARD TO SECURITY AS-SISTANCE. POVEDA STATED THAT ECUADOR HAD SPENT LITTLE ON ARMS HERETOFORE BECAUSE IT WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ON THIS AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. BECAUSE OF ITS SMALL MILITARY BUDGET IN THE PAST, ECUADOR HAD FINALLY BEGUN TO DEVELOP. BUT SOME HELP WITH SECURITY NOW, ALTHOUGH OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE U.S., WAS VITAL TO ECUADOR. 18. POVEDA NEXT TURNED TO GENERAL ARRATA, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO RECALLED THE NATIONAL TRAGEDY OF 1941 WHEN THE COUNTRY HAD TO FACE A PERUVIAN INVASION WITH-OUT BEING PROPERLY ARMED. ALTHOUGH ECUADOR HAD NEVER

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FORGOTTEN THIS, IT HAD DEVOTED THE MAJOR PART OF ECO-NOMIC RESOURCES TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNTIL VERY RECENTLY. IT WAS ONLY AFTER PERU BEGAN ITS ARMS BUILD-UP AND CREATED THE TENSIONS IN THE REGION THAT ECUADOR BEGAN TO RE-EQUIP ITS ARMED FORCES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ECUADOR'S SOLE PURPOSE WAS DEFENSE AND TO AVOID THE REPETITION OF THE EVENTS OF 1941. ARRATA WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE RESUMPTION OF SECURITY AS-SISTANCE FROM THE U.S. AFTER A FOUR-YEAR SUSPENSION AND ESPECIALLY THE FMS CREDITS THAT IT HAD RECEIVED IN RECENT YEARS. IT INTENDED TO USE THESE CREDITS TO ACQUIRE DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO DISSUADE ITS POTENTIAL ADVERSARY FROM ADVENTURISM AND THUS AVOID A CONFLICT. HE HOPED THAT ECUADORS INTEREST IN OBTAIN-ING THE 24 KFIR FIGHTERS COULD BE VIEWED IN THIS LIGHT. HE CHARGED THAT THE U.S. VETO PRODUCED A DANGEROUS DE-LAY IN THE EXECUTION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANS. ECUA-DOR ALSO CONSULTED WITH THE U.S. REGARDING AN INTE-GRATED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, INCLUDING DETECTION EQUIP-MENT AND MISSILES. IT HAD ALSO REQUESTED TWO OVER-AGE DESTROYERS SINCE THE ECUADOREAN NAVY HAD ONLY OBSOLETE SURFACE SHIPS. THE ARMY HAD ALSO MADE CERTAIN RE-QUESTS, BUT THERE HAD BEEN LONG DELAYS IN DELIVERY. ARRATA CONCLUDED BY ASKING, QUOTE NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND THE MILITARY SITUATION -- WHICH YOU ALSO SAY IS RECOGNIZED BY YOU, ISN'T IT CLEAR WHY WE NEED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S HELP? UNQUOTE. 19. ARMY COMMANDER AND TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER, GENERAL DURAN, AFTER EXCHANGING PLEASANTRIES WITH MRS. CARTER, RECAPITULATED THE PROBLEMS THAT THE ARMY HAD HAD IN OBTAINING EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE FMS PROGRAM. HE RECALLED THAT GENERAL RACHMALLER HAD OFFERED TO ASSIST IN SPEEDING UP THE REQUESTS, BUT THERE WOULD STILL BE LONG DELAYS OF UP TO THREE YEARS FOR RATHER SMALL AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT. THE ANTI-TANK EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS SENT IN JANUARY HAD BEEN BARELY ENOUGH FOR TRAIN-ING PURPOSES AND THE AMMUNITION HAS NOW BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY USED UP. DURAN STRESSED THAT THE ANTI-TANK EQUIPMENT WAS EMINENTLY DEFENSIVE, ENABLING THE ARMY

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TO FACE A MASSIVE AMORED ATTACK FROM PERU SHICH HAD SEVERAL HUNDRED SOVIET TANKS. DURAN CONCLUDED THAT HIS ONLY REQUEST WAS FOR THE U.S. TO COMPLY ON ITS SALES AGREEMENTS.

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THAT AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS HAD BEEN REACHED BECAUSE OF THE INTIMACY THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WITH THE U.S. HE ALSO POINTED TO ECUADOR'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITAS EXERCISE AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF ECUADOREAN NAVY IDENTI-FICATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE CONCLUDED BY PUTTING ON THE RECORD EQUADOR'S STANDING REQUEST FOR TWO DESTROYERS AND SOME AUXILIARY SHIPS. 22. GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE ASANZA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE JOINT COMMAND, UNDERLINED THE PREVIOUS REMARKS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT ECUADOR HAD MANY OFFERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE WHICH IT WAS STUDYING, BUT IT PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF ECUADOR'S BASIC POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND THE FACT THAT OTHER SUPPLIES MIGHT BE MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE IN THE LONG RUN. BUT TIME WAS SHORT, HE SAID, SINCE ECUADOR HAD VERY LITTLE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY NOW AND HAD TO CREATE ONE IMMEDIATELY TO DEFEND ITS TERRITORY. THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL WOULD BE IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., AND HE HOPED THAT ECUADOR'S NEEDS WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE CARTER ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. 23. AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IN NO WAY MEANT TO CONTRADICT THE ECUADOREAN CASE, HE HAD TO POINT OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT IT DID INDEED UNDERSTAND THE ECUADOREAN PROBLEM. FOR INSTANCE, ECUADOR WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA THAT HAD ITS FMS CREDIT INCREASED IN FY 1977. ALSO, THE66 SHIPMENT OF THE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS REPRESENTED AN EXTRAORDINARY MEASURE SINCE THE EQUIPMENT WAS TAKEN OUT. OF THE CURRENT U.S. INVENTORY. IN ADDITION, ECUADOR WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECEIVE THE NEW PRODUCTION OF LAWS. AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD ALSO POINTED TO THE DELIVERY OF THE LST WHICH HAD HAD TO RUN THE GAUNTLET OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL: AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD REPEATED MRS. CARTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY THAT IT WOULD MAKE NO PROMISES WHICH IT CAN'T FULFILL. WITH REGARD TO THE ARMY'S PROBLEM O DELIVERY TIME, AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD STATED THAT THIS WAS NOT A POLICY PROBLEM BUT RATHER A TECHNICAL PRODUCTION PROBLEM FROM WHICH OUR OWN ARMY

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IS ALSO SUFFERING. THE DESTROYERS, HE SAID, WERE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION, AND NOW THAT THE FISH-ING DISPUTE HAD QUIETED, HE HOPED THAT FAVORABLE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. BUT; HE CAUTIONED, IT STILL NEEDED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD STATED THAT AIR DEFENSE IS AN AREA WHICH FALLS IN THE PURVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS CONTROL OLICY. IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, MRS. CARTER HAD TAKEN DUE NOTE OF THE IMBALANCE IN AIR DEFENSE AND WOULD BRING THE MATTER TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. 24 . POVEDA SWITCHED THE DISCUSSION TO ECUADOR'S DOMESTIC POLITICS AND EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF TRANSFERRING THE REINS OF POWER TO A CONSTI-TUTIONAL CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT ECUADOR WAS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROCESS THAT WAS DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, DRAFTS OF TWO ALTERNATIVE CONSTITUTIONS HAD JUST BEEN DELIVER-ED TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL BY COMMISSIONS DRAWN FROM A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL CURRENTS. A REFERENDUM TO CHOOS A CONSTITUTION WOULD BE CALLED WHEN THE ISSUANCE OF NEW IDENTIFICATION CARDS WAS COMPLETE, AND THAT THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND FINALLY BY THE INSTALLATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THIS PLAN WAS BOTH ACCEPTABLE AND FEASIBLE AND BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD DISCOURAGE EXTREMISM, TERRORISM, AND THE CREATION OF GUERRILLAS. POVEDA THOUGHT THAT ECUADOR'S DECISION TO TRANSFER POWER TO CIVILIANS HAD ALREADY HAD REPERCUS-SIONS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PRO-DUCE THEM, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN ECUADOR HAD FIRST PROCLAIM-ED ITS INTENTION, FEW, IF ANY, DE FACTO GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT AN END TO MILITARY RULE. HE PROUD-LY DBSERVED THAT THERE WERE NOW SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES THAT WERE TALKING THE SAME WAY. IN CARRYING OUT THIS POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING IN GOOD CONSCIENCE. REALIZING THAT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IT MUST RESPECT FREEDOM OF SPEECH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE.

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MRS. CARTER FOR THE ATTENTION SHE HAD DEVOTED TO HIS COUNTRY AND FOR HER ELOQUENCE. HE SAID THAT HER RESPONSES HAD ALREADY PLEASED THEM. IT WAS ALWAYS GOOD TO HAVE A DISCUSSION AMONG FRIENDS ESPECIALLY WHEN BOTH DESIRE TO ACHIEVE THE SAME UNIVERSAL POLICY.

MRS. CARTER, HE SAID, HAD WON THE HEART OF ECUADOR BY HER CHARMING PERSONALITY AND HER VALUE AS A HUMAN BEING. BLOOMFIELD